

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 23881 181149Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23881

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG UN XF FR
SUBJECT: SUGGESTION FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENT FOR
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242

1. AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, SOUTOUSAIID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL FRENCH POLICY WITH RESPECT TO RESOLUTION 242. AS SOUTOU HAD INDICATED TO ME THE OTHER DAY, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO OPEN UP 242 IN ANY RESPECT. HE DID NOT DENY THERE COULD HAVE BEEN LOWER-LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A MOVE AND THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG EXPERTS OF THE NINE, BUT HE, SOUTOU, AS AN OLD MIDDLE EAST HAND AND AS SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH UN AFFAIRS, WOULD NEVER HAVE RECOMMENDED SUCH A LINE OF POLICY. HE HAD ALSO REPORTED FAITHFULLY MY STATEMENT THAT, IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD VETO SUCH A MOVE IF IT IS PUT FORWARD. SOUTOU SAID HE HAD ASSUMED THAT WOULD BE THE CASE.

2. THE REASON FOR THIS APPROACH IS A STORY IN
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TODAY'S PARIS MATCH REPORTING AN INTERVIEW WITH DAYAN COMPLAINING BITTERLY ABOUT FRENCH POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND STATING THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD SPOKEN OF FRENCH POLICY TO THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS. THE HEADLINE ITSELF STATES AS A QUOTE FROM DAYAN "WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE AMERICANS THAT IT IS THE FRENCH WHO ARE MANUEVERING TO MODIFY THE UN

RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF THE PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW."
SOUTOU SAID THAT WE, THE US, COULD HAVE NO INTEREST
IN CAUSING TENSIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND FRANCE
AND HE, THEREFORE, REQUESTS THAT WE TELL DAYAN
DIRECTLY WHAT THE FRENCH POSITION IS AND CORRECT ANY
MISAPPREHENSION HE MAY HAVE. THERE IS A SLIGHT
ELEMENT IN THIS ALSO OF THE FRENCH WISHING US TO TELL
DAYAN TO "KNOCK OFF" ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CAUSE
INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN FRANCE THROUGH THIS
LINE OF PUBLIC ACCUSATION. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THERE
MUST BE SOME ANNOYANCE HERE WITH US SINCE THEY MUST
ASSUME WE WERE DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTING TO FINGER THEM.
IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, I WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO
CLARIFY THAT ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

3. IN ANY CASE, I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A SERIOUS
PROBLEM, AT LEAST FROM THE TONE OF THE APPROACH TAKEN
BY SOUTOU, BUT MERELY ANOTHER INDICATION THAT
DOMESTIC POLITICAL REALITIES ARE LEADING FRANCE TO BE
MORE SENSITIVE TO ISRAELI VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST MATTERS
AND THUS RESTORE SOME BALANCE TO FRENCH PUBLIC
POSITIONS.

4. AS A POINT OF INTEREST SOUTOU DREW MY ATTENTION TO
"MISE AU POINT" PUBLISHED BY THE QUAI D'ORSAY ON
AUGUST 10:
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"LA RESOLUTION 242 SUR LE PROCHE ORIENT

COMMENTANT DIVERSES RUMEURS VENANT DU CAIRE, FAISANT
ETAT D'UNE EVENTUELLE INITIATIVE FRANCAISE VISANT A
DEMANDER LA MODIFICATION DE LA RESOLUTION 242 PAR LE
CONSEIL DE SECURITE, LE PORTE-PAROLE DU DEPARTEMENT A
PRECISE: "LA FRANCE A TOUJOURS ESTIME QUE LA
RESOLUTION 242 DEVAIT ETRE COMPLETEE POUR TENIR
COMPTE DES DROITS DU PEUPLE PALESTINIEN, MAIS CE POINT
N'A PAS ETE SPECIFIQUEMENT ABORDE LORS DE LA VISITE DE
M. DE GUIRINGAUD AU CAIRE. AUCUNE INITIATIVE FRANCAISE
EN CE SENS N'EST A L'ETUDE AU STADE ACTUEL.""

UNFORTUNATELY WE MISSED THIS MISE AU POINT BECAUSE AS
FAR AS WE CAN TELL IT WAS NEVER PICKED UP BY ANY OF
THE NEWS AGENCIES HERE.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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